

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

No claims have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 4-13 are currently being amended.

Claims 14-31 are being added.

This amendment adds and changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-31 are now pending in this application.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6-7, and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,115,505 to Hashima et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed, since Hashima fails to disclose or suggest a claimed feature of the present invention which corresponds to the step of obtaining a normalized correlation coefficient between a reference image and an input image using a function. In particular, in sharp contrast to the features recited in claims 1, 6-7 and 10-13, Hashima does not disclose or suggest a method of applying a normalized correlation operation (see, for example, column 1, lines 39-43; column 2, lines 18-24; and column 8, lines 1-14 of Hashima).

Furthermore, please note that Hashima uses a so-called "image subtraction method", which requires a plurality of reference images having different data values (see, for example, column 13, lines 41-43 and claim 1 of Hashima). For example, column 16, lines 27-30 of Hashima, which is alleged in the Office Action to teach the claimed step of obtaining a normalized correlation coefficient between a reference image and an input image, states that "the

correlation operation [is performed] between each of the two reference images and the noticed area." (emphasis added)

On the other hand, the present invention according to claims 1, 6-7 and 10-13 adopts a normalized correlation method that requires only one reference image. Since the normalized correlation method can handle brightness variation in an image very well, a single reference image can cope with any input image having an arbitrary brightness. Such a feature is not possible with Hashima's method, which must use a plurality of different reference images. Therefore, neither the features nor the advantages of the claimed invention are taught or suggested by Hashima.

Accordingly, claims 1, 6-7, and 10-13 are allowable over Hashima.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 2-5 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hashima et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 2-5 and 8-9 are dependent on claims 1 and 7, respectively, which are believed to be allowable over Hashima for the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, these claims are additionally patentable for the specific features recited in these claims.

New Claims

New claims 14-31 have been added to recite certain features of the present invention in a manner different from that recited in claims 1-13, whereby these new claims are also believed to be patentable over Hashima.

Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

August 1, 2003
Date

Phillip J. Articola
Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819

FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5535
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399